

**BEFORE THE
BOARD OF REGISTERED NURSING
DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

In the Matter of the Accusation Against:

BERNICE EKWUTOSI AKANNO
3206 W. 113th Street, #7
Inglewood, CA 90303
Registered Nurse License No. 539188

Respondent:

Case No. 2007-80
OAH No. L-2007100194

DECISION AND ORDER

The attached Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order is hereby adopted by the Board of Registered Nursing, Department of Consumer Affairs, as its Decision in this matter.

This Decision shall become effective on July 15, 2009

It is so ORDERED June 15, 2009

Susanne Phillips MSN, RN, FNP-BC
FOR THE BOARD OF REGISTERED NURSING
DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS

1 EDMUND G. BROWN JR., Attorney General
of the State of California
2 GREGORY J. SALUTE
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Attorneys for Complainant
7

8 **BEFORE THE**
BOARD OF REGISTERED NURSING
DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
9 **STATE OF CALIFORNIA**
10

11 In the Matter of the Accusation Against:

12 BERNICE EKWUTOSI AKANNO
3206 W. 113th Street, #7
13 Inglewood, CA 90303
Registered Nurse License No. 539188
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Respondent.
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Case No. 2007-80
OAH No. L-2007100194

**STIPULATED SETTLEMENT AND
DISCIPLINARY ORDER**

16
17 IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED AND AGREED by and between the parties to the
18 above-entitled proceedings that the following matters are true:

19 PARTIES

20 1. Ruth Ann Terry, M.P.H., R.N. (Complainant) is the Executive Officer of
21 the Board of Registered Nursing. She brought this action solely in her official capacity and is
22 represented in this matter by Edmund G. Brown Jr., Attorney General of the State of California,
23 by Susan Melton Wilson, Deputy Attorney General.

24 2. Respondent Bernice Ekwutosi Akanno (Respondent) is represented in this
25 proceeding by attorney Charles T. Spagnola, Esq., whose address is Charles T. Spagnola, Esq.
26 Cummins & White, 2424 S. E. Bristol Street, Suite 300, Newport Beach, CA 92660-0757.

27 3. On or about December 10, 1997, the Board of Registered Nursing issued
28 Registered Nurse License No. 539188 to Bernice Ekwutosi Akanno. The Registered Nurse

1 License was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought in Accusation No.
2 2007-80 and will expire on November 30, 2009, unless renewed.

3 JURISDICTION

4 4. Accusation No. 2007-80 was filed on October 30, 2006, before the Board
5 of Registered Nursing (Board), Department of Consumer Affairs, and is currently pending
6 against Respondent. The Accusation and all other statutorily required documents were properly
7 served on Respondent on November 7, 2006. Respondent timely filed her Notice of Defense
8 contesting the Accusation. A copy of Accusation No. 2007-80 is attached as Exhibit A and
9 incorporated herein by reference.

10 ADVISEMENT AND WAIVERS

11 5. Respondent has carefully read, fully discussed with counsel, and
12 understands the charges and allegations in Accusation No. 2007-80. Respondent has also
13 carefully read, fully discussed with counsel, and understands the effects of this Stipulated
14 Settlement and Disciplinary Order.

15 6. Respondent is fully aware of her legal rights in this matter, including the
16 right to a hearing on the charges and allegations in the Accusation; the right to be represented by
17 counsel at her own expense; the right to confront and cross-examine the witnesses against her;
18 the right to present evidence and to testify on her own behalf; the right to the issuance of
19 subpoenas to compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of documents; the right to
20 reconsideration and court review of an adverse decision; and all other rights accorded by the
21 California Administrative Procedure Act and other applicable laws.

22 7. Respondent voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently waives and gives up
23 each and every right set forth above.

24 CULPABILITY

25 8. Respondent understands and agrees that the charges and allegations in
26 Accusation No. 2007-80, if proven at a hearing, constitute cause for imposing discipline upon
27 her Registered Nurse License.

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1 9. For the purpose of resolving the Accusation without the expense and
2 uncertainty of further proceedings, Respondent agrees that, at a hearing, Complainant could
3 establish a factual basis for the charges in the Accusation, and that Respondent hereby gives up
4 her right to contest those charges.

5 10. Respondent agrees that her Registered Nurse License is subject to
6 discipline and she agrees to be bound by the Board of Registered Nursing's imposition of
7 discipline as set forth in the Disciplinary Order below.

8 RESERVATION

9 11. The admissions made by Respondent herein are only for the purposes of
10 this proceeding, or any other proceedings in which the Board of Registered Nursing or other
11 professional licensing agency is involved, and shall not be admissible in any other criminal or
12 civil proceeding.

13 CONTINGENCY

14 12. This stipulation shall be subject to approval by the Board of Registered
15 Nursing. Respondent understands and agrees that counsel for Complainant and the staff of the
16 Board of Registered Nursing may communicate directly with the Board regarding this stipulation
17 and settlement, without notice to or participation by Respondent or her counsel. By signing the
18 stipulation, Respondent understands and agrees that she may not withdraw her agreement or seek
19 to rescind the stipulation prior to the time the Board considers and acts upon it. If the Board fails
20 to adopt this stipulation as its Decision and Order, the Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary
21 Order shall be of no force or effect, except for this paragraph, it shall be inadmissible in any legal
22 action between the parties, and the Board shall not be disqualified from further action by having
23 considered this matter.

24 13. The parties understand and agree that facsimile copies of this Stipulated
25 Settlement and Disciplinary Order, including facsimile signatures thereto, shall have the same
26 force and effect as the originals.

27 14. In consideration of the foregoing admissions and stipulations, the parties
28 agree that the Board may, without further notice or formal proceeding, issue and enter the

1 following Disciplinary Order:

2 **DISCIPLINARY ORDER**

3 IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Registered Nurse License No. 539188 issued to
4 Respondent Bernice Ekwutosi Akanno is revoked. However, the revocation is stayed and
5 Respondent is placed on probation for five (5) years on the following terms and conditions.

6 **Severability Clause.** Each condition of probation contained herein is a
7 separate and distinct condition. If any condition of this Order, or any application thereof, is
8 declared unenforceable in whole, in part, or to any extent, the remainder of this Order, and all
9 other applications thereof, shall not be affected. Each condition of this Order shall separately be
10 valid and enforceable to the fullest extent permitted by law.

11 1. **Obey All Laws.** Respondent shall obey all federal, state and local laws.
12 A full and detailed account of any and all violations of law shall be reported by Respondent to
13 the Board in writing within seventy-two (72) hours of occurrence. To permit monitoring of
14 compliance with this condition, Respondent shall submit completed fingerprint forms and
15 fingerprint fees within 45 days of the effective date of the decision, unless previously submitted
16 as part of the licensure application process.

17 **Criminal Court Orders:** If Respondent is under criminal court orders,
18 including probation or parole, and the order is violated, this shall be deemed a violation of these
19 probation conditions, and may result in the filing of an accusation and/or petition to revoke
20 probation.

21 2. **Comply with the Board's Probation Program.** Respondent shall fully
22 comply with the conditions of the Probation Program established by the Board and cooperate
23 with representatives of the Board in its monitoring and investigation of the Respondent's
24 compliance with the Board's Probation Program. Respondent shall inform the Board in writing
25 within no more than 15 days of any address change and shall at all times maintain an active,
26 current license status with the Board, including during any period of suspension.

27 Upon successful completion of probation, Respondent's license shall be fully
28 restored.

1 3. **Report in Person.** Respondent, during the period of probation, shall
2 appear in person at interviews/meetings as directed by the Board or its designated
3 representatives.

4 4. **Residency, Practice, or Licensure Outside of State.** Periods of
5 residency or practice as a registered nurse outside of California shall not apply toward a reduction
6 of this probation time period. Respondent's probation is tolled, if and when she resides outside
7 of California. Respondent must provide written notice to the Board within 15 days of any change
8 of residency or practice outside the state, and within 30 days prior to re-establishing residency or
9 returning to practice in this state.

10 Respondent shall provide a list of all states and territories where she has ever been
11 licensed as a registered nurse, vocational nurse, or practical nurse. Respondent shall further
12 provide information regarding the status of each license and any changes in such license status
13 during the term of probation. Respondent shall inform the Board if she applies for or obtains a
14 new nursing license during the term of probation.

15 5. **Submit Written Reports.** Respondent, during the period of probation,
16 shall submit or cause to be submitted such written reports/declarations and verification of actions
17 under penalty of perjury, as required by the Board. These reports/declarations shall contain
18 statements relative to Respondent's compliance with all the conditions of the Board's Probation
19 Program. Respondent shall immediately execute all release of information forms as may be
20 required by the Board or its representatives.

21 Respondent shall provide a copy of this Decision to the nursing regulatory agency
22 in every state and territory in which she has a registered nurse license.

23 6. **Function as a Registered Nurse.** Respondent, during the period of
24 probation, shall engage in the practice of registered nursing in California for a minimum of 24
25 hours per week for 6 consecutive months or as determined by the Board.

26 For purposes of compliance with the section, "engage in the practice of registered
27 nursing" may include, when approved by the Board, volunteer work as a registered nurse, or
28 work in any non-direct patient care position that requires licensure as a registered nurse.

1 The Board may require that advanced practice nurses engage in advanced practice
2 nursing for a minimum of 24 hours per week for 6 consecutive months or as determined by the
3 Board.

4 If Respondent has not complied with this condition during the probationary term,
5 and Respondent has presented sufficient documentation of her good faith efforts to comply with
6 this condition, and if no other conditions have been violated, the Board, in its discretion, may
7 grant an extension of Respondent's probation period up to one year without further hearing in
8 order to comply with this condition. During the one year extension, all original conditions of
9 probation shall apply.

10 **7. Employment Approval and Reporting Requirements.** Respondent
11 shall obtain prior approval from the Board before commencing or continuing any employment,
12 paid or voluntary, as a registered nurse. Respondent shall cause to be submitted to the Board all
13 performance evaluations and other employment related reports as a registered nurse upon request
14 of the Board.

15 Respondent shall provide a copy of this Decision to her employer and immediate
16 supervisors prior to commencement of any nursing or other health care related employment.

17 In addition to the above, Respondent shall notify the Board in writing within
18 seventy-two (72) hours after she obtains any nursing or other health care related employment.
19 Respondent shall notify the Board in writing within seventy-two (72) hours after she is
20 terminated or separated, regardless of cause, from any nursing, or other health care related
21 employment with a full explanation of the circumstances surrounding the termination or
22 separation.

23 **8. Supervision.** Respondent shall obtain prior approval from the Board
24 regarding Respondent's level of supervision and/or collaboration before commencing or
25 continuing any employment as a registered nurse, or education and training that includes patient
26 care.

27 Respondent shall practice only under the direct supervision of a registered nurse
28 in good standing (no current discipline) with the Board of Registered Nursing, unless alternative

1 methods of supervision and/or collaboration (e.g., with an advanced practice nurse or physician)
2 are approved.

3 Respondent's level of supervision and/or collaboration may include, but is not
4 limited to the following:

5 (a) Maximum - The individual providing supervision and/or collaboration is
6 present in the patient care area or in any other work setting at all times.

7 (b) Moderate - The individual providing supervision and/or collaboration is in
8 the patient care unit or in any other work setting at least half the hours Respondent works.

9 (c) Minimum - The individual providing supervision and/or collaboration has
10 person-to-person communication with Respondent at least twice during each shift worked.

11 (d) Home Health Care - If Respondent is approved to work in the home health
12 care setting, the individual providing supervision and/or collaboration shall have person-to-
13 person communication with Respondent as required by the Board each work day. Respondent
14 shall maintain telephone or other telecommunication contact with the individual providing
15 supervision and/or collaboration as required by the Board during each work day. The individual
16 providing supervision and/or collaboration shall conduct, as required by the Board, periodic, on-
17 site visits to patients' homes visited by Respondent with or without Respondent present.

18 9. **Employment Limitations.** Respondent shall not work for a nurse's
19 registry, in any private duty position as a registered nurse, a temporary nurse placement agency, a
20 traveling nurse, or for an in-house nursing pool.

21 Respondent shall not work for a licensed home health agency as a visiting nurse
22 unless the registered nursing supervision and other protections for home visits have been
23 approved by the Board. Respondent shall not work in any other registered nursing occupation
24 where home visits are required.

25 Respondent shall not work in any health care setting as a supervisor of registered
26 nurses. The Board may additionally restrict Respondent from supervising licensed vocational
27 nurses and/or unlicensed assistive personnel on a case-by-case basis.

28 Respondent shall not work as a faculty member in an approved school of nursing

1 or as an instructor in a Board approved continuing education program.

2 Respondent shall work only on a regularly assigned, identified and predetermined
3 worksite(s) and shall not work in a float capacity.

4 If Respondent is working or intends to work in excess of 40 hours per week, the
5 Board may request documentation to determine whether there should be restrictions on the hours
6 of work.

7 **10. Complete a Nursing Course(s).** Respondent, at her own expense, shall
8 enroll and successfully complete a course(s) relevant to the practice of registered nursing no later
9 than six months prior to the end of her probationary term.

10 Respondent shall obtain prior approval from the Board before enrolling in the
11 course(s). Respondent shall submit to the Board the original transcripts or certificates of
12 completion for the above required course(s). The Board shall return the original documents to
13 Respondent after photocopying them for its records.

14 **11. Cost Recovery.** Respondent shall pay to the Board costs associated with
15 its investigation and enforcement pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 125.3 in the
16 amount of \$7500.00. Respondent shall be permitted to pay these costs in a payment plan
17 approved by the Board, with payments to be completed no later than three months prior to the
18 end of the probation term.

19 If Respondent has not complied with this condition during the probationary term,
20 and Respondent has presented sufficient documentation of her good faith efforts to comply with
21 this condition, and if no other conditions have been violated, the Board, in its discretion, may
22 grant an extension of Respondent's probation period up to one year without further hearing in
23 order to comply with this condition. During the one year extension, all original conditions of
24 probation will apply.

25 **12. Violation of Probation.** If Respondent violates the conditions of her
26 probation, the Board after giving Respondent notice and an opportunity to be heard, may set
27 aside the stay order and impose the stayed discipline (revocation/suspension) of Respondent's
28 license.

1 If during the period of probation, an accusation or petition to revoke probation has
2 been filed against Respondent's license or the Attorney General's Office has been requested to
3 prepare an accusation or petition to revoke probation against Respondent's license, the
4 probationary period shall automatically be extended and shall not expire until the accusation or
5 petition has been acted upon by the Board.

6 **13. License Surrender.** During Respondent's term of probation, if she ceases
7 practicing due to retirement, health reasons or is otherwise unable to satisfy the conditions of
8 probation, Respondent may surrender her license to the Board. The Board reserves the right to
9 evaluate Respondent's request and to exercise its discretion whether to grant the request, or to
10 take any other action deemed appropriate and reasonable under the circumstances, without
11 further hearing. Upon formal acceptance of the tendered license and wall certificate, Respondent
12 will no longer be subject to the conditions of probation.

13 Surrender of Respondent's license shall be considered a disciplinary action and
14 shall become a part of Respondent's license history with the Board. A registered nurse whose
15 license has been surrendered may petition the Board for reinstatement no sooner than the
16 following minimum periods from the effective date of the disciplinary decision:

17 (1) Two years for reinstatement of a license that was surrendered for any
18 reason other than a mental or physical illness; or

19 (2) One year for a license surrendered for a mental or physical illness.

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Exhibit A

Accusation No. 2007-80

1 BILL LOCKYER, Attorney General
of the State of California
2 GLORIA A. BARRIOS, State Bar No. 94811
Deputy Attorney General
3 California Department of Justice
300 So. Spring Street, Suite 1702
4 Los Angeles, CA 90013
Telephone: (213) 897-2540
5 Facsimile: (213) 897-2804
6 Attorneys for Complainant
7
8

9 **BEFORE THE**
BOARD OF REGISTERED NURSING
DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
10 **STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

11 In the Matter of the Accusation Against:

Case No. 2007-80

12 BERNICE EKWUTOSI AKANNO
3206 W. 113th Street, #7
13 Inglewood, CA 90303

ACCUSATION

14 Registered Nurse License No. 539188

15 Respondent.

16
17 Complainant alleges:

18 **PARTIES**

19 1. Ruth Ann Terry, M.P.H., R.N. (Complainant) brings this Accusation
20 solely in her official capacity as the Executive Officer of the Board of Registered Nursing,
21 Department of Consumer Affairs (Board).

22 2. On or about December 10, 1997, the Board issued Registered Nurse
23 License No. 539188 to Bernice Ekwutosi Akanno (Respondent). The Registered Nurse License
24 was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought herein and will expire on
25 November 30, 2007, unless renewed.

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1 of the licensing act to pay a sum not to exceed the reasonable costs of the investigation and
2 enforcement of the case.

3 **CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES / DANGEROUS DRUGS**

4 9. **FRAGMIN** injection (dalteparin sodium injection) is a sterile, low
5 molecular weight heparin (anticoagulant) and is a dangerous drug pursuant to Business and
6 Professions Code section 4022.

7 10. **HYDROCORTISONE** is a corticosteroid. It helps to reduce swelling,
8 redness, itching, and allergic reactions. It is a dangerous drug pursuant to Business and
9 Professions Code section 4022.

10 11. **MORPHINE SULFATE**, the narcotic substance is a preparation of
11 Morphine, the principal alkaloid of opium. It is classified as a Schedule II controlled substance
12 as designated by Health and Safety Code section 11055, subdivisions (b)(1)(M) and (b)(2). It is
13 categorized as a dangerous drug pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 4022.

14 12. **PREDNISONE** is a corticosteroid used to treat severe allergies, arthritis,
15 asthma, skin conditions and other conditions as determined by your doctor. It is categorized as a
16 dangerous drug within the meaning of Business and Professions Code section 4022.

17 **FIRST CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE**

18 **(Gross Negligence - Patient GG)¹**

19 13. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under Section 2761,
20 subdivision (a)(1), on the grounds of unprofessional conduct, in that on or about November 13,
21 2001, while working as a registered nurse at Los Angeles County, USC Medical Center, Los
22 Angeles (LAC USC), Respondent committed acts of gross negligence in caring for Patient GG as
23 follows:

24 **Patient GG**

25 a. On or about November 13, 2001, at 1630 hours, the physician orders

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28 1. To protect the patients' privacy, they will be referred to by their initials.

1 reflect that Patient GG was to receive Morphine Sulphate 4mg SQ (subcutaneously) every 4
2 hours.

3 b. On or about November 13, 2001, at 1850 hours, Respondent records on
4 the Medication Administration Record (MAR) that she withdrew 4mg Morphine Sulphate and
5 administered it IVP (intravenously) to Patient GG. Respondent administered medication via an
6 incorrect route.

7 c. On or about November 13, 2001, at 1850 hours, Respondent wrote a
8 verbal order in the physician's order sheet for Morphine Sulphate 4mg IVP for Patient GG.
9 Respondent changed the route of administration from SQ to IVP.

10 d. Respondent failed to follow the physician's order on the medication
11 administration, thereby putting the patient at risk for an adverse outcome due to the medication's
12 action time.

13 e. Respondent failed to follow the Five Rights of Medication
14 Administration².

15 **SECOND CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE**

16 **(Falsification of Records- Patient GG)**

17 14. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under Section 2762,
18 subdivision (e), on the grounds of falsification of records in that on or about November 13, 2001,
19 she changed the physician's order from SQ to IVP.

20 **THIRD CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE**

21 **(Gross Negligence - Patient MG)**

22 15. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under Section 2761,
23 subdivision (a)(1), on the grounds of unprofessional conduct, in that on or about December 19,
24 2001, while working as a registered nurse at LAC USC, Respondent committed acts of gross
25 negligence in caring for Patient MG as follows:

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27

28 2. The Five Rights of Administration include Right Patient, Right Dose, Right Route,
Right Time and Right Duration.

Patient MG

a. Patient MG is a 31 year old female admitted to LAC USC following an auto/ pedestrian accident that occurred on or about September 19, 2001. Patient MG's right leg required insertion of a right tibial rod and subsequently it became infected. On or about December 8, 2001, Patient MG was admitted to the hospital for various infection treatments and antibiotic therapy to her right leg. The treatments included various types of operative procedures. Patient MG had operative procedures on December 8, 2001, December 12, 2001 and December 18, 2001. A complication from postoperative procedures included bleeding.

b. On or about December 19, 2001, at 1950 hours, the physician's order reflects that Patient MG was to receive Fragmin 5000 IU SQ QD (every day) starting on December 20, 2001 (post op day 2). Fragmin is an anticoagulant medication used to control blood clots on the postoperative patient, has a risk of severe bleeding, and must be administered with caution on the postoperative patient.

c. On or about December 19, 2001 (post op day 1 - wrong day) instead of December 20, 2001 (post op day 2), Respondent records on the MAR that she administered Fragmin 5000 unit SQ to Patient MG. After administration of the Fragmin, Patient MG's hemoglobin decreased from 10.1 (prior Fragmin administration) to 6.3 (post Fragmin administration), which resulted in Patient MG's physician to order 2 units of blood transfusion due to low hemoglobin. After the 2 unit blood transfusion, Patient MG's hemoglobin count raised to 9.8.

d. Respondent failed to follow the physician's order on the medication administration and failed to administer Fragmin cautiously on the postoperative patient thereby exposing the patient to risk of an adverse outcome due to the fact that she administered Fragmin on the wrong day.

e. Respondent failed to follow the Five Rights of Medication Administration.

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1 **FOURTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE**

2 **(Gross Negligence - Patient BN)**

3 16. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under Section 2761,
4 subdivision (a)(1), on the grounds of unprofessional conduct, in that on or about April 18, 2002,
5 while working as a registered nurse at LAC USC, Respondent committed acts of gross
6 negligence in caring for Patient BN as follows:

7 **Patient BN**

8 a On or about April 18, 2002, at 0645 hours, Patient BN's physician orders
9 reflect that she was to be administered 2 units packed red blood cells (PRBC) over 3 hours each
10 unit.

11 b. On or about April 18, 2002, at 1030 hours, Patient BN's intravenous fluid
12 intake record documents that the first unit of PRBC was infused by other hospital staff.

13 c. On or about April 18, 2002, at 1415 hours, Patient BN's intravenous fluid
14 intake record documents that the second unit of PRBC was infused by other hospital staff.

15 d. On or about April 18, 2002, at 1030 hours, Respondent administers an
16 unordered third unit of PRBC on Patient BN. Respondent recorded the third unit's
17 administration on three hospital records for Patient BN: 1) intravenous fluid intake log, 2) Blood
18 Bank/Transfusion Medicine Blood Product Record, and 3) nursing progress notes:

19 e. Respondent failed to follow the physician's orders. Respondent failed to
20 check the physician's order on blood transfusion before administration thereby placing the
21 patient at risk for fluid overload.

22 f. Respondent failed to follow the Five Rights of Medication Administration.

23 **FIFTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE**

24 **(Gross Negligence - Patient FC)**

25 17. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under Section 2761,
26 subdivision (a)(1), on the grounds of unprofessional conduct, in that on or about May 20, 2002,
27 while working as a registered nurse at LAC USC, Respondent committed acts of gross
28 negligence in caring for Patient FC as follows:

Patient FC

a. On or about May 5, 2002, Patient FC was admitted with severe exacerbation of Coronary Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) and Respiratory Failure. According to physician's progress notes, dated on or about May 15, 2002, at 2100 hours, the physician planned to systematically control Patient FC's COPD exacerbation and wean him off ventilator assistance. Systematic administration of corticosteroids improves airflow in respiratory failure patients with COPD. The plan was to initiate high doses of Hydrocortisone and slowly decrease the dosage daily and then initiate the prednisone therapy.

b. On or about May 20, 2002, at 1100 hours, physician's orders were a sequential series of medication administration orders as follows:

Hydrocortisone 100mg IV every 12 hours for three days (days 1, 2 & 3),
Then, Hydrocortisone 60mg IV every 12 hours for three days (days 4, 5 & 6),
Then, Hydrocortisone 40mg IV every 12 hours for three days (days 7, 8 & 9),
Then, Prednisone 20mg by mouth daily for three days (days 10, 11 & 12),
Then, Prednisone 10mg by mouth daily for three days (days 13, 14 & 15),
Then, Prednisone 5mg by mouth daily for three days (days 16, 17 & 18).

c. On or about May 20, 2002, at 2200 hours, Patient FC's MAR documents indicated that Respondent administered Hydrocortisone 100mg IV and Prednisone 20mg by mouth, which resulted in the administering a higher dose of cortisone than was ordered and giving the Prednisone 10 days early.

d. Respondent failed to follow physician's order on medication administration placing the patient at risk for an adverse outcome of respiratory distress.

e. Respondent failed to follow the Five Rights of Medication Administration.

SIXTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Gross Negligence - Repeated Failures)

18. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under Section 2761, subdivision (a)(1), on the grounds of unprofessional conduct for committed repeated acts of gross negligence while working as a registered nurse at LAC USC, Respondent committed repeated acts of gross negligence placing patients at risk, as more fully described above in paragraphs 14 - 18, inclusive, as follows:

- a. Repeatedly failed to follow the Five Rights of Medication Administration.
- b. Repeatedly failed to follow the physician's orders.
- c. Administered medication via contrary route.
- d. Administered medication at wrong date and time.
- e. Administered packed red blood cells without a physician's order.
- f. Administered medication to a postoperative patient on a wrong date.

SEVENTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Unprofessional conduct)

20. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under Section 2761, subdivision (a), in that Respondent committed acts of unprofessional conduct in the duties and functions of her profession while employed as a registered nurse at LAC USC, as follows:

- a. On or about July 13, 2005, Respondent was discharged from service due to:
 - (1) Violating hospital policy on Safe Guard for Protected Health Information (PHI) when Respondent faxed patient care information to outside hospital ground faxes on six (6) occasions from on or about May 24, 2004 to July 20, 2004.
 - (2) Altering a patient's medical record on or about April 14, 2005.
 - (3) Performed catheter irrigation on a patient without a physician's order on or about April 19, 2005.
 - (4) Administering a wrong medication to a patient which resulted in respiratory depression to a patient on or about July 11, 2005.

PRAYER

WHEREFORE, Complainant requests that a hearing be held on the matters herein alleged, and that following the hearing, the Board of Registered Nursing issue a decision:


1. Revoking or suspending Registered Nurse License No. 539188, issued to Bernice Ekwutosi Akanno.
2. Ordering Bernice Ekwutosi Akanno to pay the Board of Registered

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1 Nursing the reasonable costs of the investigation and enforcement of this case, pursuant to
2 Business and Professions Code section 125.3;

3 3. Taking such other and further action as deemed necessary and proper.

4 DATED: 10/3/06

5 
6 RUTH ANN TERRY, M.P.H., R.N.
7 Executive Officer
8 Board of Registered Nursing
9 Department of Consumer Affairs
10 State of California
11 Complainant

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